

Integrated Farm/Livestock Management Demonstration Program

Request for Proposals

Tillage and Nutrient Management Proposals Due May 31, 2003

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Division of Soil Conservation

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Integrated Farm/Livestock Management (IFLM) Demonstration Program

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation (IDALS/DSC), is seeking proposals for education and demonstration in areas of tillage and nutrient management to demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of emerging agricultural management practices to protect water resources and provide other environmental benefits. This program concentrates on in-field management techniques in livestock and crop systems in an educational and/or demonstration setting. Farm operators participate in conjunction with community colleges, Iowa State University, private industry and farm organizations. The primary goal is to bring about a change in farming practices across the state by adoption of these practices, resulting in more environmentally beneficial ag management. A related outcome will be economically sustainable farm input management.

IFLM is a voluntary program, engaging agricultural producers as meaningful participants (instructors or providers of information, reviewers of materials, demonstrators or presenters of personal case studies, etc.). The IFLM funds may be used to provide incentive payments to encourage farm operators to apply and demonstrate prescribed land management practices.

The DSC seeks to establish both statewide and smaller, regional projects in the following subject areas:

1. **Tillage Management.** Effective education and demonstration projects should address the following farmers' perceptions of problems related to reduced tillage and no-till: cold, wet soils; drainage; soil compaction; equipment and technique; increased production costs; and lower yields. Tillage management programs should result in reductions in one or more of the following contaminants: sediment, nutrients (including nitrogen and phosphorous), and pesticides.
2. **Nutrient Management and Utilization.** Projects should address the following concerns related to organic and inorganic nutrient management and utilization: nutrient utilization, geographic variability, and application (including calibration and application in high residue soils). Effective nutrient management education and demonstration projects must focus on these concerns as they relate to crops and livestock and may include livestock producers working with non-livestock producers or custom applicators. Nutrient management and utilization programs should lead to one or more of the following outcomes: effective utilization of manure nutrient content, efficient use of commercial fertilizer; and changes in manure storage, handling and application that will result in improved water quality.

Proposal evaluation will be based on:

- 1) Overall Suitability to Achieve IFLM Program Goals
 - a) Is there a focus on demonstration of adaptability and effectiveness of emerging in-field practices?
 - b) Is there potential for more environmentally beneficial farm input management?
 - c) Is there potential to achieve the educational objectives set out in the proposal abstract?
 - d) Is there potential to motivate agricultural producers to adopt the demonstrated practice?
 - e) Is there potential for economically sustainable impact?
- 2) Education and Outreach
 - a) Is there a quality, appropriate demonstration/educational methodology?
 - b) Is there additional outreach to statewide audience?
 - b) Is there an effective evaluation protocol?
- 3) Potential to Leverage Other Resources
 - a) Are there matching funds from other sources?
 - b) Is there cooperation with other organizations, agencies, and businesses?
 - c) Is there utilization of existing educational materials and programs?

The DSC will consider the evaluation results in approving proposals for implementation. Final approval rests with the DSC, and the DSC reserves the right to negotiate contracts and funding of proposals.

Funding

It is anticipated that up to **\$750,000** will be awarded, contingent on appropriations by the Iowa General Assembly. Both statewide and smaller, geographically-centered project proposals will be considered. Proposals with a multi-year thrust will be considered; however, projects must be designed on a single crop year basis. Payment will be made to the contracting party in response to monthly billings submitted pursuant to the terms of the agreement.

Proposals must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., May 31, 2003. Proposals are to be e-mailed to Elaine Ilvess, IDALS/DSC, elaine.ilvess@idals.state.ia.us

Cover Page Format

Project Title:

Project Contact:

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

FAX:

E-mail:

Project duration:
(including proposed Start and End dates)

Budget:

IFLM Funds <u>Requested</u>	Other <u>State</u>	Matching Funds <u>Federal</u>	<u>Private</u>
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Total

Name(s), title(s), and organization(s) of official(s) to receive funds.

Proposal Format

- A. **Cover Page.** Use the attached cover page format.
- B. **Abstract of Objectives.** One paragraph approximately 100 words in length to describe the impact the project will have on Iowa agriculture and the environment. Describe in objective terms the in-field practices to be adapted and implemented by the participating producers, the anticipated adoption by subsequent producers, and the specific environmental benefits that result.
- C. **Approach and Methods.** Describe how the objectives will be accomplished, what educational methodologies will be used, the estimated number of producers who will be actively participating, and the individual(s) who will carry out the project.
- D. **Educational Outreach.** What information derived from the project will be provided for educational outreach? Describe the audiences to which the information will be provided and the methods for effective delivery. Estimate the number of individuals who will be affected by outreach.
- E. **Evaluation.** Describe how achievement of the objectives will be measured and how they will result in behavior change. Quantify economic and natural resource benefits, or other measurable outcomes. If possible, the outcome should be measured in numerical pollution reduction.
- F. **Budget.** Use attached format.
- G. **Timetable.** Indicate when the various phases of the project will be completed. If this is a subsequent year in a multi-year project, what has been accomplished to date?
- H. **Major participants.** List multiple partners who will be participating in the project. Include a brief resume for each, not to exceed two pages total.
- I. **Subcontractors.** IDALS/DSC will enter into a contractual agreement with the lead organization or business (Primary Grantee), which is the Principal Investigator's organization or business. Any other organizations listed and identified to receive funds (Subcontractors) are required to initiate contractual agreements with the Primary Grantee.
- J. **Format Criteria.** Proposals must be typewritten or word-processed, using a 12 point or larger font size on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with a minimum of 1 inch horizontal and vertical margins. **Parts C and D must not exceed 4 pages.** Proposals will not be accepted if all or any portion of the proposal is received **later than 4:30 p.m., May 31, 2003.**

Budget Format

Project title:

Project contact:

Authorized signature:

Name:

Title:

FIN:

Project budget:

- A. Personal services:
 - 1. Salary and wages
 - 2. Fringe benefits
 - 3. Total personal services
- B. Non-expendable equipment:
- C. Supplies and materials (please specify):
- D. Travel:
- E. Publications and printing costs:
- F. Compensation to participants (please specify):
- G. Other costs and services (please specify):
- H. Total budget

Funds obligated to IFLM have been appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly to benefit Iowa producers. Therefore, no indirect charges are authorized. Contract payments will be based on completion of work elements outlined and submission of work products.